



Stand To

That you are reading material relevant to your profession right now speaks highly of you, no matter the location nor the aesthetics of your reading surroundings. Maybe you are sitting in the dayroom waiting your chance at the pool table; maybe you're in the S3 shop waiting for those briefing slides to spit out of a too-slow laser printer; maybe you are just relaxing for a few minutes at your home or under a desert shade; or maybe you've just returned from a patrol in a foreign land. It doesn't matter where you are, because you are engaged in professional thought and growing. This critical thinking business is a skill that one must regularly practice, practice, practice. It's one of those tools that the Chief of Armor says should be in every one of our tool bags. There are no boundaries; if you have a few minutes to sit, you have a few minutes to get smarter. I believe that there are a number of articles inside this issue which afford you such training opportunities.

Judging from the amount of recent mail on the subject, there is a great deal of angst at the company level regarding the look of future armored force operations. That distances between elements of our digitized formations will increase seems certain. That commanders at levels above the company will know more about the threat facing them and their subordinate units than their ancestors ever did isn't even debatable. That the higher level commander will one day know more about what is happening along the front line trace, and beyond, than do the men occupying and scanning from the battle positions. . . what of this?

In this issue, several contributors are thinking very much about what their piece of the battle space will look like — how much they will be able to see — how much their superiors will see — how much their

superiors' superiors will see. They wonder about the resulting effects on the chain of command, and just how much help a future company commander will get. What is the right amount of help, and when does the help begin to degrade the freedom of action with which we historically have empowered our junior commanders? Captains Bateman, Brown, and Pryor ask incisive questions that deserve answers. They posit a future that, if we didn't know it was feasible, would have only a few years ago sounded like it might have come straight off the pages of a science fiction journal. These leaders and critical thinkers want to know that doctrine and technology are advancing hand in hand so the tactics, techniques, and procedures are right for the next time we squeeze rounds off at targets that can shoot back. It is a challenge for any bureaucracy to keep abreast of change, but it seems to me that this is happening in the armored force; you need only read on to see evidence of it.

There will soon be a new way for you to react to this and other issues in *ARMOR*. We plan to select 2-4 articles from a past issue that generated reader interest, e.g., letters to the editor or e-mail to the editor, and post them on the World Wide Web (WWW) at the Fort Knox home page site for all to read. If you can browse to the Fort Knox home page, you'll be able to access "Issues in Armor." We will include any letters we've received on the article plus create an e-mail feature in order that you can send in further comments which we will, in turn, post and update to the WWW site every week. Frankly, we aren't sure how much more work this new feature will entail, but we are very excited to give it a go. See page 12 for a fuller description on our vision for "Issues in Armor."

— TAB

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

DENNIS J. REIMER
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

YVONNE M. HARRISON
Administrative Assistant to the
Secretary of the Army

01089